Susan Bysiewicz
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

May 22, 2007

Twenty five fourth grade students from across Connecticut were honored at the Capitol on Friday for their essays describing their favorite place in the state. The Secretary of the State's 13th Annual Essay Contest attracted more that one thousand applicants, one of the highest levels of participation in the contest's history. ([Click here for a list of students who wrote the winning essays](#)). The top five essays covered a wide range of attractions: a flea market in New Milford, the beach at Hammonassett State Park in Madison, the Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven, the Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk, and the Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford. It is my hope that this essay contest will inspire students to appreciate what Connecticut has to offer and think about how they can help protect, and even improve, the things that they love most.

In just a few weeks, on June 6th, the 2007 Legislative Session will be over. If there is an issue you feel passionately about and want the General Assembly to take action - now is the time to contact your State Senator and State Representative. [(Click here to find your local legislators).](#)

Finally, as Memorial Day approaches, I want to encourage all Connecticut residents to reflect on the sacrifice and service offered by our men and women who are in the armed forces. I believe it's important that our soldiers know they have the support of people in this state and the elected leaders who represent them. I was proud to stand with Gov. Rell and all the Constitutional Officers just a few weeks ago as we welcomed home dozens of soldiers from the 102nd Infantry Division, who had served in Afghanistan for the last year. ([Click here to read a newspaper article with more details on the dramatic homecoming](#)). In the coming weeks my office will announce its own plan to honor our veterans.

Sincerely,

Susan Bysiewicz
Secretary of the State

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